

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

March 2011 – Week 4

Air Date: March 20 – March 26 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: THE PEG LEG GANG

MARCH 1939 AND IT'S A PEG LEG PRISON BREAK!

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MARCH 21, 1939. ON HIGHWAY 75 NEAR SHERMAN, A PRISON GANG IS CUTTING WEEDS. SUDDENLY, INMATE JODY LLOYD PULLS A GUN FROM THE GRASS, OVERPOWERS THE GUARD AND MAKES A BREAK FOR IT. FOUR OTHERS JOIN HIM, BUT THE MEN ARE UNLIKELY ESCAPEES.

THREE ARE MISSING A LEG – AND ONE AN ARM. THE INMATES ARE AMPUTEES FROM A PRISON TB UNIT IN HUNTSVILLE.

FOR DAYS, THE GANG EVADE POLICE. MOST ARE SOON CAPTURED.

LLOYD IS ARRESTED IN MISSOURI, BUT TRIES TO BUST OUT USING A SAW HE HID IN HIS WOODEN LEG.

HAROLD HORTON, THE ONLY ESCAPEE WITH ALL HIS LIMBS, MAKES IT TO OKLAHOMA BEFORE GETTING CAUGHT. HE ALSO TRIES TO BREAK OUT, BUT GETS SHOT. IN THE LEG.

THE PEG LEG GANG MADE A RUN FOR IT, MORE OR LESS, 72 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.



Contemporary Newspaper Sources

Lubbock Morning Avalanche – March 22, 1939

Corsicana Daily Sun – March 22, 1939

Corsicana Daily Sun – June 24, 1939

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